

What is claimed is:

1. An image signal which carries image information corresponding to a frame comprising:

a display cycle identifier capable of indicating that a cycle of image display for all frames included in said image signal is constant; and

display timing data for determining the timing at which the image display of a frame is to be performed.

2. A decoding method for decoding an image signal which includes coded image data corresponding to a frame of an image, a display cycle identifier capable of indicating that a cycle of image display for all frames included in said image signal is constant, and display timing data indicating a timing of said image display, comprising the steps of:

generating decoded image data by decoding said coded image data, wherein said display cycle identifier indicates whether a cycle of image display for all frames included in said image signal is constant or can be variable; and

determining an image display timing for said decoded image data based on said display timing data, when said display cycle identifier indicates that said cycle of image display can be variable.

3. An image decoding apparatus for decoding image signals which include coded image data corresponding to a frame of an image, a display cycle identifier capable of indicating that a cycle of image display for all frames included in said image signal is constant, and display timing data indicating a timing of said image display, comprising:

decoding means for generating decoded image data by decoding said coded image data; and

timing determining means for determining an image display timing for said decoded image data based on said display timing data when said display cycle identifier indicates that said cycle of image display can be variable.

4. A data storage medium storing an image signal according to claim 1.

5. A data storage medium containing a decode processing program which enables a computer to execute the decoding method of claim 2.

6. An image signal which carries image information corresponding to a frame, said image signal comprising:

a display cycle identifier operable to indicate that a cycle of image display for all frames included in said image signal is constant; and

display timing data operable to determine the timing at which

the image display of a frame is to be performed.

7. A decoding method for decoding an image signal which includes coded image data corresponding to a frame of an image, a display cycle identifier operable to indicate that a cycle of image display for all frames included in the image signal is constant, and display timing data operable to indicate a timing of the image display, said method comprising:

generating decoded image data by decoding the coded image data, wherein the display cycle identifier indicates whether a cycle of image display for all frames included in the image signal is constant or can be variable; and

determining an image display timing for the decoded image data based on the display timing data when the display cycle identifier indicates that the cycle of image display can be variable.

8. An image decoding apparatus for decoding image signals which include coded image data corresponding to a frame of an image, a display cycle identifier operable to indicate that a cycle of image display for all frames included in the image signal is constant, and display timing data operable to indicate a timing of the image display, said apparatus comprising:

decoding device operable to generate decoded image data by decoding the coded image data; and

timing determining device operable to determine an image display timing for the decoded image data based on the display

timing data when the display cycle identifier indicates that the cycle of image display can be variable.

9. A computer readable data storage medium for use with a computer for image processing, said computer readable data storage medium comprising:

an image signal which carries image information corresponding to a frame;

wherein said image signal comprises:

a display cycle identifier operable to indicate that a cycle of image display for all frames included in said image signal is constant; and

display timing data operable to determine the timing at which the image display of a frame is to be performed.

10. A computer program embodied on a computer readable data storage medium for use with a computer for decoding an image signal which includes coded image data corresponding to a frame of an image, a display cycle identifier operable to indicate that a cycle of image display for all frames included in the image signal is constant, and display cycle data operable to indicate a timing of the image display, said computer program comprising:

computer readable program code operable to cause the computer to generate decoded image data by decoding the coded image data, wherein the display cycle identifier indicates whether a cycle of image display for all frames included in the image signal is constant or can be variable; and

computer readable program code operable to cause the computer to determine an image display timing for the decoded image data based on the display timing data when the display cycle identifier indicates that the cycle of the image display can be variable.